Mr. Ray Allshouse, Chair Washington State Building Code Council PO Box 41449 Olympia, WA 98504-1449

Mr. Chairman and Council Members:

My name is David Huotari. I am a principal and one of the owners of ALSC Architects, a Spokane based small business firm of approximately 50 professionals. My leadership responsibilities at ALSC include Business Development (marketing) and Research and Development (R&D). I am the Treasurer of the Corporation and serve as the Chief Operating Officer (CFO). In short, for my company, I seek out new project opportunities, focus on the finances and cash flow, both for my clients as well as for my company, design facilities and oversee construction.

I am also currently the President-Elect of the Washington Council of the American Institute of Architects. Beginning in November of this year, I will begin serving as the Council President. Washington Council exists to serve architects of the State of Washington by promoting a business friendly design and construction economy and to focus on legislative issues that safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public through the practice of architecture. As the soon to be president, I take this responsibility very seriously.

I recommend Option 2 and request your approval of the prescriptive R and U-value requirements of this Option. In my professional opinion, Option 1 is too restrictive for mass walls and would not produce sustainable, cost effective design and construction solutions for building owners and our communities. Option 2 is a noteworthy step towards higher performing buildings and sustainability, both of which I strongly support. Option 1, in its aggressiveness will have a negative impact on construction cost, likely not produce the desired outcomes and perhaps put other small businesses "out of business". At this time in our struggling economy and construction climate, the potential negative impact is enormous.

I support high performance building goals and sustainable design initiatives and requirements. The practice of ALSC Architects focuses primarily on Commercial, Institutional and Educational Facilities — Public Facilities. My specific focus is on educational and maintenance/operation facilities. Single wythe, insulated masonry walls are used extensively in gymnasiums of my school designs and the walls of maintenance/operations facilities. This product is cost effective, durable, sustainable and very appropriate to the facility use both inside and out.

Our projects meet or exceed LEED and WSSP (Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol) where required, recommended or desired. However, in review of a broad section of our work, I've come to recognize that the most important aspect of energy conservation isn't necessarily the products that are used but rather the practices and behaviors of the building owners, tenants and occupants. Two examples and recent observations have made a strong impression on me.

1) In Downtown Spokane, a high tech retail products store was recently designed and constructed to meet sustainable design goals. The materials followed the criteria for a high performance

building. However, this summer, when daytime business hour temperatures were consistently in the 90's, the storefront entry doors were blocked open to invite customers into the store. The result is that you could stand on the sidewalk, on the south facing side of the building and remain quite cool up to ten feet away from the entry to the store.

2) Public schools are designed to meet LEED or WSSP. As such classrooms employ an array of sustainable design and energy conservation aspects. These include light shelves, sunscreens and lighting controls that modulate the lighting in these classrooms based on daylighting objectives and opportunities. I've toured many schools recently designed and constructed, both by my company as well as other architects. I typically find that in most classrooms, the window blinds are drawn to block out the natural daylight and all of the lights are on full power.

These experiences and observations have impressed upon me that while we can make progress towards our mutual goals through the use of higher performing building materials, progress on this front will likely be dramatically compromised by how the occupants operate and control their rooms and their buildings.

Again, I encourage your rejection of Option 1 and your approval of Option 2.

Thank you very much for allowing me an opportunity to share my professional point of view and share time with you here today.

Sincerely,

David Huotari, AlA

Principal, ALSC Architects

President-Elect, AIA Washington Council